

educating the public about senior issues. Like other TSCL Board of Trustees members he has served without pay.

George A. Smith was born on October 28, 1930. He currently resides in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife Marie. Mr. Smith entered the U.S. Army in July 1948 and served an illustrious 21-year career. While on active military duty, Mr. Smith earned the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and a multitude of miscellaneous awards and commendations.

Mr. Smith is a TREA (The Retired Enlisted Association) Past National President. As a TREA leader, he initiated and finalized the purchase of the first TREA National Headquarters. He has served as Chairman of the Past President's Advisory Council, Chairman of the TREA Memorial Foundation, Chairman of TREA Finance Committee, Chairman of TREA 5-Year Planning Committee, President of TREA Chapter 3, and Chairman of TREA Convention Committee.

George Smith has an Associate Degree in Business Management from Metro State College in Denver, Colorado, and is retired from the Colorado Department of Employment where he served as the Job Service Director. He also worked in the area of direct sales for Telecommunications, and was an owner of his own precision welding business. He served as President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3482, and as President of a local homeowners association.

George Smith learned from his experiences in the military and private sector that a strong foundation has to be constructed brick by brick using motivational management and a team concept. At TSCL Chairman Smith used his management expertise to revitalize the organization. He developed an expanded legislative agenda of activities in Congress.

His visionary leadership helped move TSCL forward to the status of a well-known and respected organization by most Members of Congress. During his tenure as Chairman, TSCL has become a significant national player on several senior issues.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am especially grateful for George Smith's service in the military. His advocacy for senior issues and for retired enlisted military will be missed when he steps down as TSCL Chairman later this year. Thank you George for your remarkable contributions and distinguished sacrifices for our country. You did make a difference. God bless you.

HIGH SCHOOL REFORM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, 2005, during a Committee on Education and the Workforce hearing on High School Reform I gave the following statement:

I am pleased we will today hear from the Governors of Massachusetts and Iowa on what measures they have found useful in reforming high schools in their own states. I am especially pleased that Governor Vilsack has highlighted the importance of vocational education and its role in high schools. High school reform is an important piece of the puzzle ensuring that our nation's young

adults are able to succeed in their chosen career path. The goal of high schools should be to prepare students for the next step in their lives, whether that be continuing on to college or beginning a vocational training program.

First, we must work to ensure that students graduate from high school. Recent statistics reported by the Harvard Civil Rights Project show that only 68 percent of students who entered the 9th grade graduated in the 12th grade. Minority students were even less likely to graduate. In today's economy, a high school diploma has increasingly become a minimum requirement for workers. We must address issues that keep students from graduating and get diplomas in their hands.

Students, regardless of background, should also know the options they have after graduation. The knowledge of training programs, entry requirements for universities, and financial aid options is invaluable for both students and their parents. Course work must effectively engage and challenge students, continuing their academic growth and building upon their foundation of skills. Students of all levels should make progress in their studies.

Our nation is diverse and so are the students in our high schools. There is no "one size fits all" for high schools or the students in them. Reforms for high schools should both recognize and employ that fact and aim to ensure that all students graduate from high school and are prepared for the next step in lives.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES THE CAREER OF GRETA KIERNAN OF PLAINSBORO, NEW JERSEY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Greta Kiernan, who has served the State of New Jersey in a multitude of capacities for more than 40 years.

Having known Greta for a number of years, I can personally attest to the tremendous contributions she has made during her career as a public servant. From her introduction to politics as a member of the Bergen County Democratic Committee in 1963, Ms. Kiernan has distinguished herself by virtue of her exemplary leadership and commitment. She has served as a key aide to several members of the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly, a legislative liaison to New Jersey for the New York / New Jersey Port Authority, a principal staff member for the Low Level Radioactive Waste Siting Board and a principal staff member in the office of the Congressional Representative of the 12th District. Ms. Kiernan continues to build a political legacy. She was the first Democratic woman to serve in the New Jersey State Assembly from Bergen County. Elected in 1978, Ms. Kiernan represented what was then New Jersey's 39th District.

A woman of political acuity, skill, and expertise, Greta Kiernan is also known for her loyalty and kindness. A mother of four and grandmother of eleven, Ms. Kiernan is an avid collector of political memorabilia and artifacts. Her collection includes a rare copy of the minutes of the 1947 New Jersey Constitutional Convention, an extensive treasury of books on

the political history of New Jersey (signed by their authors), and countless buttons, bumper stickers, and hats. Her wit and quiet charm are boundless, and she has earned the trust and admiration of so many.

Greta Kiernan roles have ranged the gamut of public service, but her values and dedication have remained constant throughout. An inspiration to citizens of the State of New Jersey, Greta Kiernan has contributed significantly to the life of her community. She has earned our heartfelt appreciation and respect for her efforts. I ask my colleagues to join me in giving her this recognition.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE BROWNELL

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to 11-year-old Katie Brownell, of Genesee County, New York, for pitching a perfect Little League game on May 14th. This is a terrific accomplishment and Katie has much to be proud of, as do her family and her community.

Katie, the only female player in the league, displayed tremendous ability as she pitched the perfect game, striking out every single batter she faced, allowing not even a single baserunner.

This is not the first time Katie has dominated a baseball game however. In her first appearance on the mound this season, Katie allowed only one hit, striking out 14 batters through five innings. Katie also has a batting average of .714 through the first three games of the season.

Furthermore, Katie has shown tremendous sportsmanship, taking this accomplishment humbly and in stride. Katie has never gloated and has never bragged. She simply loves the game and enjoys playing it—characteristics equally as impressive as her abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in honoring Katie Brownell, and recognize her tremendous athletic abilities and sportsmanship after pitching a perfect game for her Little League team.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GARRETT, JR.— A TRUE AMERICAN PATRIOT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my uncle, John Garrett, Jr. and I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding American patriot.

John Garrett, Jr. was a Staff Sergeant and platoon leader of the 229th Port Company attached to the 1st Engineer Specialist Brigade of the 1st Army and on June 6th, 1944, his contingent of 75 men was responsible for transporting ammunition to the landing Allied Forces.

He was extremely proud of his service in the Army during WWII; however, he was disheartened that the role of African American soldiers who helped lead our country to victory